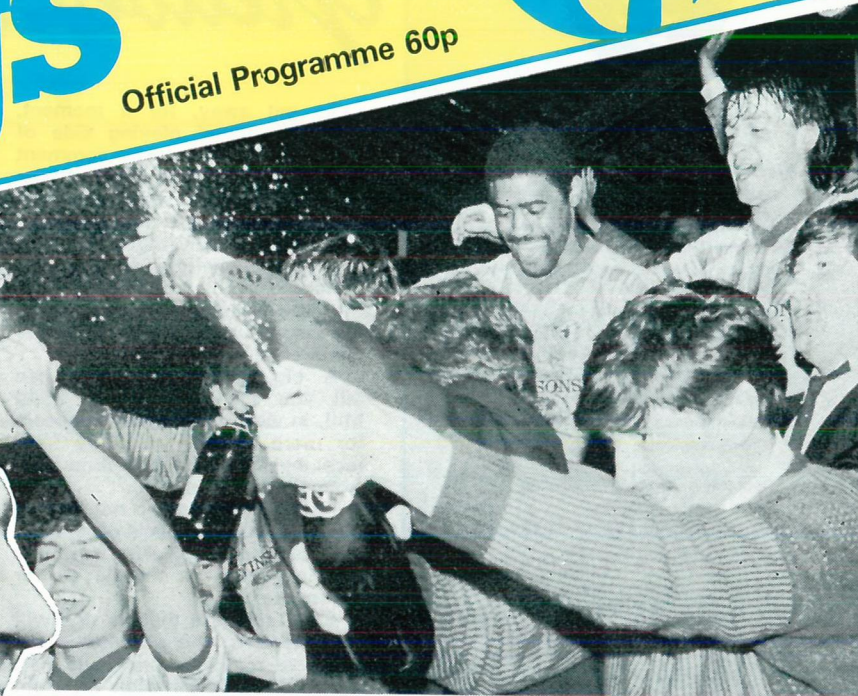


stags

Official Programme 60p



Today's Visitors —

The TODAY League Division Three

BOLTON

Saturday, 22nd November, 1986. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Field Mill Ground, Quarry Lane,
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Front cover picture by
courtesy of "Chad."

Ian Greaves...



To get away, for a moment, from the actual playing side of the game, I must really comment on the disappointments of our last home game when Swindon Town provided the opposition.

Not particularly that the match ended in a goalless draw, which I know was not too well received by some of our supporters, but on the size — or lack of it — of the attendance on that occasion.

A big disappointment, I can tell you for everyone at Field Mill, in view of our recent appeals for more backing not only from local businessmen and firms, but from the terraces too.

I admit that we are not putting the ball into the back of the net with sufficient regularity to satisfy Ian Greaves — or the players for that matter.

But I am sure that no one will deny that, in the circumstances, we have made an excellent start to life back in Division III. I am not making excuses for the lack of goals — just stating the facts.

After all, we have three experienced strikers currently sitting it out on the sidelines injured.

Indeed, Neil Whatmore and Roddy Collins have not been available all season so far because of long-term injuries.

And Neville Chamberlain has missed the last four games because of injury.

It seems that all of our injuries appear to be long-term affairs these days.

Injuries are all part and parcel of football, and are expected. However, it appears that we just can't get away with those which cost a senior player just a one match absence.

As a consequence we have had to throw very young players in at

the deep end — and I am pleased to say that they have swum — not sunk!

You know as well as I do, that young players need nursing slowly towards regular first-team football, but we have had to ask the youngsters to do more than normally we would have expected them to do by way of making senior appearances.

None of them has let us down — in fact they have done us proud.

So I maintain that there is a great deal to be proud of at Field Mill these days.

Sufficient, I submit, to merit the full backing of everyone in Mansfield and district.

I will be blunt and make the point that it all boils down to a question of the survival of Mansfield Town as a Football League club.

Should the worst come to the worst, which hopefully it will not, then it will be no use wishing something had been done by the local community to help keep senior football in the town — it will be too late!

And anyone who thinks that the loss of the club would be of little consequence, I suggest that they nip over to Accrington, Gateshead, Workington or Barrow and ask the locals how much they miss having a Football League club.

They will tell you that a Football League club is the most important factor in keeping the name of a town on the map.

A great deal of what is good about the game is happening NOW at Field Mill.

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Club Scene

Today we return to the bread and butter of the League programme after the disappointments of our FA Cup trip to Feethams and the defeat by Darlington.

And, as we extend a welcome to Bolton Wanderers FC, naturally we hope to return to winning ways and pick up three points which are so vital to keep in the forefront of the promotion race.

No need to recite the pedigree of Bolton's new manager Phil Neal, of Liverpool and England fame.

And it is old home week for not only our manager Ian Greaves, but for Neil Whatmore and Mike Graham also.

Mr. Greaves was the boss at Burnden Park when he guided the club back into Division One.

Both Neil and Graham have worn the colours of the famous Lancashire club during their playing careers.

There is no need either to reiterate the disappointment of the Cup result against Darlington.

Unfortunately it was one of those days when nothing went right, very much typified by the own goal which virtually gave the Quakers a place in the second round.

And the deflection off one of our players which prevented a late equaliser by our skipper George Foster.

Perhaps the only pleasing feature of last week was the return to senior duty of long-term injury victims Neil Whatmore and Paul Garner, who came through their appearances without any serious repercussions.

While on the subject of long-term injuries, we now have only two outstanding cases, Roddie Collins and Gary Pollard — and we hope that both will be available for selection next week.

We must also not forget to mention our pleasure at the sizeable following of our supporters who made the trip to Feethams despite the late change to a Sunday fixture.

The change was made at the request of the local police.

Next Tuesday evening, 25th November, we will be entertaining Newport County in the rearranged match which was postponed on Tuesday 21st October, kick-off is 7.30 p.m.

And the other outstanding fixture — against Blackpool — will be played on Saturday 6th December, kick-off 3 p.m. as both of the clubs failed at the first hurdle of the FA Cup competition.

This means that our League fixtures will be up-to-date — a good thing as the Freight Rover Trophy competition is due to start next week also.

We have been drawn in Group 8 and will meet Halifax Town at home and Rotherham United away.

The meeting with Halifax will be at Field Mill on Tuesday 2nd December, kick-off 7.30 p.m., with the match at Mill-moor the following Tuesday 9th December.

STAGS RESERVES

It may well be a little wearing to continually read about our injury problems.

But to put this in the right perspective, a week last Saturday we had to call off our Midland Intermediate League match with Notts County.

We had no less than eight players queuing for treatment on the Saturday morning — it was just impossible to field a team for the match.

Fortunately we can tell you that the injury situation is gradually improving.

Both Gareth Price and Nicky Anderson, who have been hobbling about on crutches, have been able to dispense with them.

Gareth has graduated to doing light exercise while Nicky has resumed light training.

And Mark Place, who has been out of action for some weeks is now also back in light training.

It will make a nice change to have a full squad to select from particularly as this season seems to be following last season's pattern when we also had queues at the treatment door for the attention of Billy Dearden.

Unfortunately the injury situation with first-team players also has a knock-on effect right through the club — but we are hoping that we will have a clean bill of health within the next few weeks.

FURTHER MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE FIXTURES

6th December 1986

LEAGUE CUP. GROUP 'B'

Mansfield v. Derby County

13th December 1986

Mansfield v. Peterborough United

YOUTH TEAM

We have been extremely busy on this side of the club's activities in the past week or so.

In the period we have run the rule over no less than seven trailists which included four from the West Midlands and three from the Retford, Doncaster and Sheffield area.

As we reported in our last programme notes, we are widening the net of our scouting activities.

We said then that the South Yorkshire and West Midlands areas were being combed for youngsters with potential.

Now we can report that our efforts are being intensified in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Previously we have concentrated more on our immediate catchment area with some success.

And we can also reveal that we have arranged for our scouting activities to be extended to the Bristol areas.

Recently we entertained the under-16 side of Burton Albion at one of our Tuesday evening training sessions for youngsters in order to cope with the flow of trailists who are writing in and being recommended to us.

We went down 2-1 at Bilsthorpe Welfare FC in the Notts Combination's Premier Division — and missed a penalty into the bargain — although why a trailist was allowed to take the spot kick we have gone into in some depth.

However we must admit that we should have won this one in any event — but we wasted the scoring opportunities which came our way.

NEWS ON 3

by Harry Yelland



FREIGHT ROVER TROPHY DRAW — PRELIMINARY ROUND

Like last season's competition, the preliminary round will consist of group matches — the winner of each group go forward to the next stage. Here is the complete draw:

SOUTHERN SECTION

- Group 1 — Cardiff C., Wolves, Bournemouth
- Group 2 — Exeter C., Bristol C., Bristol R.
- Group 3 — Walsall, Torquay Utd., Swansea C.
- Group 4 — Port Vale, Hereford Utd., Newport C.
- Group 5 — Colchester, Peterborough, Aldershot
- Group 6 — Notts C., Gillingham, Northampton T.
- Group 7 — Orient, Brentford, Swindon T.
- Group 8 — Fulham, Southend U., Cambridge U.

NORTHERN SECTION

- Group 1 — Burnley, Bolton W., Blackpool
- Group 2 — Preston NE, Crewe A., Chester City
- Group 3 — Carlisle Utd., Bury, Stockport County
- Group 4 — Wrexham, Tranmere R., Wigan Ath.
- Group 5 — Lincoln City, Scunthorpe U., Hartlepool
- Group 6 — Doncaster R., Chesterfield, Middlesbro'
- Group 7 — York City, Darlington, Rochdale
- Group 8 — **Mansfield Town**, Halifax T., Rotherham

Ties are to be played week beginning November 24th, December 1st and December 8th.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Middlesbrough have appointed 40-year-old accountant Keith Lamb as the club's first chief executive.



OFFER REJECTED

A £35,000 offer from Brentford for Port Vale defender Phil Sproson has been rejected by the Potteries club.



FORCED TO QUIT

Walsall's expensive central defender Ken Armstrong has been forced to quit the game by an ankle injury . . . without kicking a ball for his new club. He cost £126,500 when signed from Birmingham City last February but was injured in training with his new team-mates in the week of the transfer.



TRANSFER NEWS

- ☐ Former Chelsea defender Mickey Droy has left Crystal Palace for Brentford on a free transfer.
- ☐ Joe Jakub of Bury has joined Dutch club AZ 67 Alkmaar for £20,000.

- ☐ Gordon Davies of Manchester City has resigned for his former club Fulham in a £50,000 deal.
- ☐ Neighbours Chesterfield have signed former miner Phil Greaves (age 25) from Alfreton Town.
- ☐ Bury have signed striker Bob Colville from Oldham Athletic for £15,000.



DISMISSALS

- ☐ Bristol City striker Steve Neville was sent off in the 44th minute of the game at Blackpool for apparently aiming a kick at home skipper Mike Walsh.
- ☐ Mark Goodwin was sent off in Notts County's 1-0 defeat at Brentford.
- ☐ Nicky Law was dismissed in Blackpool's 1-0 win at home to Rotherham.
- ☐ David Currie was sent off playing against his former club Middlesbrough in the local derby at Darlington.
- ☐ Bury's Andy Hill was dismissed in his side's 1-1 draw away to Bristol Rovers.

H.Y's FOOTBALL GOSSIP

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Motherwell celebrated their centenary on Monday 3rd November when they held Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool to a 1-1 draw at Fir Park.



JIMMY QUILTS

Jimmy Melia, who led Brighton to Wembley not so long ago, has quit as manager of struggling Stockport County.



BIG LOSS

Second Division Grimsby Town lost a record £302,050 last season, with a £93,000 drop in match income among the reasons.



TORQUAY TO INTRODUCE IDENTITY CARDS

Torquay United are the latest side to introduce an identity card system in an attempt to stamp out crowd trouble at Plainmoor. Torquay have decided upon the scheme following violence at their recent home game against Wolves.



BAN LIFTED

The Football League have lifted a ban on Middlesbrough signing new players.

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MELANIE BROWN (Secretary).

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Another Stag's attack breaks down with the Swindon keeper Fraser Digby saving with Keith Cassells and Tony Lowery waiting on.

Action v Swindon

Pictures courtesy of Chad

Craig McKernon narrowly misses this centre and Colin Calderwood heads clear, with Tony Kenworthy looking for the loose ball.



Today's visitors



Back Row (left to right): Mark Came, Mike Salmon, Kevin Mailey, Simon Farnworth, Jimmy Phillips.
Middle Row (left to right): Steve Carroll (Youth Team Coach), Steve Thompson, Mark Winstanley, George Oghani, Steve Elliott, Dave Sutton, Warren Joyce, Paul Clarke, Colin Irwin (Coach), Peter Nightingale
Front Row (left to right): Paul Allen, Julian Darby, Mark Gavin, Phil Neal (Player/Manager), Derek Scott, Tony Caldwell, Asa Hartford.

Some facts and figures —

by Harry Yelland

Chairman: N. Riley

Manager: Phil Neal (Player-Manager)

Colours: White Shirts, Navy Blue Shorts
 White Stockings

Honours: Champions Div. 2 1908-9, 1977-8

Champions Div. 3 1972-3

FA Cup Winners 1923, 1926, 1929, 1958

Runners-up 1894, 1904, 1953

League Cup Semi-Final 1976-7

Year Formed: 1874

Club Nickname: 'The Trotters'

Record Win: 13-0 v Sheffield Utd FA Cup 1890

Most League Appearances:

519, Eddie Hopkinson 1956-70

Most Capped Player:

Nat Lofthouse 33 for England

Most League Goals (career):

255, Nat Lofthouse 1946-61

Most League Goals (season):

38, Joe Smith, Div. 1 1920-21

Ground: Burnden Park

Capacity: 43,000

Record Attendance: 69,912 v Man. City, FA Cup 1933

Last Season's Position: 18th

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The clubs have met on rare occasions in the League in recent years but have met on two occasions in cup competitions.

The most recent meeting was a Freight-Rover Trophy semi-final at Burnden Park when the Stags won 2-1 with goals from Kearney and Caldwell. The attendance was a good 6,706 crowd.

MOST RECENT MEETINGS (Mansfield's scores are always given first):

Season	Division	Home	Away
1971-72	3	1-0	0-2
1977-78	2	0-1	0-2
1983-84	FA Cup	—	0-2
1984-85	FR Trophy	—	2-1

CURRENT FORM (most recent games):

Notts County (Home) L3 1-1
 Walsall (Away) L3 3-3
 Rotherham Utd (Away) L3 0-1
 Blackpool (Home) L3 1-0
 Chester City (Home) L3 1-1
 Brentford (Away) L3 2-1
 Middlesbrough (Away) L3 0-0
 Newport County (Home) L3 0-1
 Halifax Town (Away) FA Cup 1-1

BOLTON

SIMON FARNWORTH (Goalkeeper). The former England Schoolboy International is in his fourth season in the Bolton senior squad after graduating from the junior ranks.

MIKE SALMON (Goalkeeper). In July Bolton paid Stockport County £18,000 for the former Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, the fee being set by a transfer tribunal. The 6ft. 2ins. Leyland-born player made his League debut for the Wanderers against Swindon Town.

PHIL NEAL (Defender). A veteran of more than 700 senior games, the former England full-back picked up a record eighth League Championship medal in May, five months after leaving Liverpool where he spent 11 glorious years. Fifty international caps plus European Cup and League/Milk Cup winners medals make the Bolton player-manager, who began his career with Northampton Town, the most decorated player in the domestic game today.

JIMMY PHILLIPS (Defender). Another product of the Bolton youth academy, the local-born defender has made the majority of his appearances at left-back but has also played in the centre of defence and in midfield.

MARK CAME (Defender). Made an enormous leap from North West Counties League football to the professional ranks when he joined Bolton from Winsford United in April 1984. The solid central defender, who made his Wanderers League debut in September that same year, has been a regular in the first team squad ever since.

DAVE SUTTON (Defender). The tall blond central defender joined Bolton from Huddersfield Town in the summer of 1985 for a £12,000 fee. He was a member of two promotion-winning teams at Leeds Road after moving from Plymouth where he started his career.

DEREK SCOTT (Defender). The most versatile player in the Bolton squad. The former England Schoolboy International, who hails from Gateshead, played in almost every position during his 11 seasons with Burnley, making his League debut in the First Division. Joined Bolton in June 1985 for a £20,000 fee.

MARK WINSTANLEY (Defender). In his first season as a regular member of the Bolton senior squad, the young central defender made his League bow at Bournemouth in March last season.

JULIAN DARBY (Defender). Can play in defence or midfield, the Bolton-born youngster came onto the scene last season when he made his League debut against Blackpool in March.

ASA HARTFORD (Midfield). Capped 50 times by his country, the former Scottish international was considered in the 'veteran' stages when he joined Bolton in the summer of 1985 from Norwich, for whom he scored the winning goal in the Milk Cup Final that year. But he proved his durability by ending the season as Bolton's only ever-present. Still a great influence in midfield.

WARREN JOYCE (Midfield). The energetic, enthusiastic all-rounder is in his fifth season in the Bolton first team, after making his League debut at Carlisle in the Second Division in April 1983.

STEVE THOMPSON (Midfield). A talented midfield player with a powerful shot, Steve is a penalty shot specialist. A Bolton regular for the past three seasons after graduating from the junior ranks of the club.

MARK GAVIN (Midfield). Phil Neal's first transfer 'buy' in April 1986. Wanderers paid Carlisle United a small fee for the speedy former Leeds United winger, who is at home on either flank.

STEVE ELLIOTT (Striker). Bolton paid Walsall £25,000 for the former Nottingham Forest apprentice who has had spells with Preston North End and Luton Town. Came to prominence at Deepdale after a £95,000 transfer. Scores goals himself but is also regarded as a provider for his attacking colleagues. Steve made his Bolton League debut against Swindon on the opening day of the season.

TONY CALDWELL (Striker). It's been goals galore for the Salford-born striker since he made a sensational switch from non-league football in 1983 when he joined Bolton from local club Horwich RMI.

GEORGE OGHANI (Striker). Another capture from non-league football, George joined Bolton from Hyde United in October 1983. Loves to score goals and a sparkling spell towards the end of last season helped Wanderers along the way to their Freight Rover Trophy Final appearance at Wembley.

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Ian STRINGFELLOW	Supporters Club	Supporters Club	Supporters Club
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Mike GRAHAM			
Keith CASSELLS			
David LOGAN	MELANIE BROWN of Ann'sley Woodhouse	MELANIE BROWN of Ann'sley Woodhouse	MELANIE BROWN of Ann'sley Woodhouse
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SCORECHART

	Half time	Full time		Half time	Full time
A Bournem'th v. Chesterf'd			M Arsenal v. Man. City		
B Brentford v. Blackpool			N Coventry v. Norwich		
C Bristol City v. Rotherham			O Man. United v. Q.P.R.		
D Bury v. Swindon			P Forest v. Wimbledon		
E Carlisle v. Fulham			Q Oxford v. Tottenham		
F Chester v. Bristol Rovers			R Sheffield Wed. v. Luton		
G Darlington v. Wigan			S Watford v. Leicester		
H Doncaster v. Port Vale			T West Ham v. Aston Villa		
J Gillingham v. Notts Co.			U Derby v. Sheffield Utd.		
K Newport v. Middlesbrough			V Oldham v. Crystal Palace		
L York v. Walsall			W Northampton v. Exeter		

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On Sundays, we bring you reports on all the first and second division matches, plus a full round-up of the 3rd and 4th.

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THE
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LEAGUE

STAGS FACTFILE

Home matches and scorers in heavy type

† Player withdrawn
* Substitute Used



1986-87	Opponents	ATT'D	F	A	Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Aug.	23 Sat DONCASTER R. ...	3,966	2-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	26 Tue Walsall L.C.C. (1) ...	3,942	0-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	30 Sat Darlington ...	2,043	1-2		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Sept.	2 Tue WALSALL L.C.C. (1) ...	3,069	2-4		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Garner	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain Robinson
	13 Sat CHESTERFIELD ...	4,771	1-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon St'fellow
	17 Sun Bristol Rovers ...	2,802	0-0		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Garner	McKernon	Cassells	Cham'lain Robinson
	16 Tues Bury ...	2,023	1-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Garner	Cham'lain	Cassells	McKernon St'fellow
	20 Sat AFC BOURNEMOUTH ...	2,841	1-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Pollard	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain McKernon
	27 Sat Carlisle Utd ...	2,817	2-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Pollard	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain McKernon
	30 Tues GILLINGHAM ...	3,045	1-0		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Pollard	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain McKernon
Oct.	4 Sat York City ...	4,135	3-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain McKernon
	11 Sat BRENTFORD ...	3,453	1-0		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain Anderson
	18 Sat Chester ...	2,377	1-1		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	Cham'lain Robinson
Nov.	1 Sat Rotherham Utd. ...	3,385	2-2		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	8 Sat Bristol City ...	6,407	0-0		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	15 Sat SWINDON T. ...	3,908	0-0		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	22 Sat BOLTON WDRS. ...	2,119	1-2		Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	25 Tues NEWPORT C. ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	29 Sat Walsall ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Dec.	2 Tu-s HALIFAX (F.R.T.) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	6 Sat BLACKPOOL ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	13 Sat Fulham ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	21 Sun WIGAN ATH. ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	26 Fri Notts County ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	27 Sat MIDDLESBRO' ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Jan.	1 Thur PORT VALE ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	3 Sat Bolton W/drs. ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	11 Sun Doncaster R. (3) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	17 Sat DARLINGTON ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	25 Sun Chesterfield ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	31 Sat BRISTOL R. (4) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Feb.	7 Sat BURY ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	14 Sat AFC Bournemouth ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	21 Sat CARLISLE U. (5) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	28 Sat Gillingham ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
Mar.	3 Tues ROTHERHAM U. ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	7 Sat Blackpool ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	14 Sat CHESTER (6) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	17 Tues Newport County ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	21 Sat Brentford ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	28 Sat YORK CITY ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
April	4 Sat Swindon Town ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	11 Sat BRISTOL C. (SF) ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	18 Sat Port Vale ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	21 Tues NOTTS COUNTY ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	25 Sat Wigan Ath. ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
May	2 Sat WALSALL ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	4 Mon Middlesbrough ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson
	9 Sat FULHAM ...				Hitchcock	Graham	Logan	Lowery	Foster	Kenworthy Kent	Kearney	St'fellow	Cassells	McKernon Robinson

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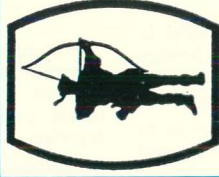
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THE TODAY LEAGUE — DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesbrough	16	9	5	2	29	14	32
Gillingham	15	9	4	2	19	9	31
Bournemouth	15	9	3	3	23	17	30
Blackpool	15	8	4	3	29	15	28
Notts County	16	8	4	4	28	17	28
Swindon Town	15	7	4	4	25	21	25
Doncaster	16	7	3	6	24	20	24
Bristol City	14	6	5	3	23	11	23
Mansfield Town	14	5	8	1	16	11	23
Wigan	16	7	1	8	27	29	22
York City	16	6	4	6	21	26	22
Chesterfield	16	6	3	7	25	31	21
Bristol Rovers	15	5	5	5	19	20	20
Carlisle	16	5	4	7	16	22	19
Brentford	15	5	3	7	19	23	18
Newport	14	4	5	5	23	24	17
Fulham	16	4	5	7	20	28	17
Bolton	16	4	4	8	21	24	16
Walsall	15	4	4	7	26	31	16
Bury	15	3	5	7	18	22	14
Port Vale	16	3	5	8	22	27	14
Chester	16	1	11	4	14	22	14
Darlington	14	3	4	7	15	24	13
Rotherham	16	3	3	10	13	27	12

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What the papers say . .



FOURTH DIVISION Cardiff City's giantkilling Littlewoods Cup act once again set the tongues wagging about the future of Chelsea manager John Hollins.

Former England striker Mick Channon said in the 'Daily Star' that the one time Stamford Bridge favourite on the park must take the blame for the London club's disastrous start to the season.

"A manager has one thing to do and that is to get the players at his club to play for him and that's not happening."

However, while Channon was criticising the boss, Charlton Athletic captain Mark Aizlewood claimed the answer to Chelsea's problems lay at the feet of the players and not the management.

For his part, Hollins defiantly stressed that he is no quitter and his chairman, the controversial Ken Bates, was reported in 'The Sun' as saying: 'Sack John Hollins? I've never even considered it.'



Hard man Ron Saunders has come under fire on several occasions for his treatment of 'star' players . . . including our own Neil Whatmore. And in the 'Sunday People' it was the turn of striker Imre Varadi to reveal how the West Bromwich Albion boss made his life a misery by relegating him to the A team for no apparent reason.



Continuing on the England theme, the national press had a field day describing the torment of midfield star Glenn Hoddle after the international. Only days earlier they had gone to town about suggestions that he could be on his way from White Hart Lane after dissatisfaction from new manager David Pleat.

The 'Sunday People' was typical of the speculation, claiming that Hoddle's 29th birthday present would be a move — possibly to Europe.

After England's 2-0 victory over Yugoslavia Hoddle hit back at the boo-boys on the terraces who spoiled a triumphant night at Wembley. And former Spurs physio Mike Varney jumped to his defence in the 'News of the World'.

He dispelled criticism of Hoddle's fitness and commitment, saying he was one of the fittest players at the club. And he told how Hoddle twice played on for long periods with serious injuries, shrugging off pain to help out the club.

Varney said: 'Don't talk to me about Southern softies. Glenn played a whole season not so long ago with achilles tendon trouble . . . he was sore for three days after every game and could hardly train.'



The 'News of the World' also told the story of an international whose career appears to have been ended for something he said off the field.

Northern Ireland captain Sammy McIlroy recently received a letter from manager Billy Bingham — once the man in charge here at Field Mill, of course — thanking him for his services, but saying that it was time youth had its chance.

Nothing unusual in that you might say. But the Sunday paper went on to explain how Bingham's decision to axe his skipper from the squad followed a public rebuke for the midfield ace from Irish FA President Harry Cavan.

McIlroy criticised the decision to switch the Irish's home European tie against England to Wembley because it left the nation with two difficult away trips to start their campaign . . . trips which eventually proved almost fruitless.

However, Cavan publicly hit back at McIlroy and, the paper reported, asked Bingham to underline his disquiet.

The midfielder added: 'Billy Bingham never made a comment to me about it.' Nevertheless, the former Manchester United, Stoke City and Manchester City player is now out in the international wilderness.

And, as the 'News of the World' said: 'Only Pat Jennings has won more Northern Ireland caps, and the difference in reaction to that hero's passing, compared with McIlroy's, is almost indecent.'

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COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING...



We received in the Commercial Office recently, an interesting handbook. Issued by the 'Continental Society for people interested in British football', the large A4 size ninety-page handbook contains a wealth of information about the continental following of our game.

Of particular interest to Stags' fans is a section on the continentals 'Best Divisional Teams'. These are decided by vote and it is nice to see that in the Division Four Best Team for last season, no fewer than five Stags players are included, these are: Kevin Hitchcock, Paul Garner, George Foster, Neil Whatmore and Keith Cassells. In addition to this, votes were cast for Mick Graham, Kevin Kent and Mark Kearney.

One contributor, in fact, had our goalkeeper and back four in his best team.

Nice to know that we are known abroad!

Stags Lotteries — the local one

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7. Kevin KENT
8. Mark KEARNEY
9. Ian STRINGFELLOW
10. Keith CASSELLS
11. Craig McKERNON
12. To be announced

Bolton W.

1. Mike SALMON
2. Phil NEAL
3. Jimmy PHILLIPS
4. Warren JOYCE
5. Mark CAME
6. Julian DARBY
7. Tony CALDWELL
8. Steve THOMPSON
9. Steve ELLIOTT
10. Asa HARTFORD
11. Mark GAVIN
12. To be announced



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